



## *Office of Economic Development*

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For Immediate Release

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*~ Green information technology company announces relocation to Danville~*

DANVILLE – **EcomNets®** announced plans today to establish a computer manufacturing facility in the City of Danville. The company plans to produce “green” computers in the building formerly occupied by EDS in Airside Industrial Park just east of the airport. By the time the company is fully operational, it will employ 160 people and will be producing a computer that operates on significantly less power than the personal computers that are currently on the market. The computers that will be produced by Ecomnets, trademarked **Verdio**, are made using materials that can be recycled. These machines are among the first personal computers to be made anywhere that are specifically designed to provide for a cleaner environment. EcomNets is expected to have an investment of well over two million dollars in the project when it becomes operational.

“We are looking forward to creating a ‘green’ IT center in Danville. Our long range plans include a number of initiatives that will build the future technology for information processing that protects the environment for generations to come,” said Raj Kosuri, Chief Technology Officer of EcomNets. “The people in Danville have been very supportive of our efforts to locate our facility there, and we are grateful for all of that support.”

During conversations with U.S. Senator Jim Webb's office, EcomNets expressed a desire to locate a facility in a historic manufacturing community with a demonstrated interest in attracting advanced technology opportunities. Danville emerged as a highly suitable option, and the staff in Senator Webb's office has been very helpful in introducing the company to the region. Senator Webb said, “I am very

pleased that my office was able to help connect the city of Danville and EcomNets on this exciting initiative. I firmly believe that 'green technology' sectors hold great promise for future economic growth and expansion in Southern Virginia and rural communities across Virginia, and I will continue to work diligently to help facilitate such efforts whenever appropriate opportunities arise."

"This announcement is another example of how our region is working to provide cutting edge opportunities for all of our people. The jobs that EcomNets is bringing to us will create a new source of employment and income, and help establish Danville as an up and coming location for green technology companies. This is an occasion for all of us to celebrate the rewards of hard work and creative vision," said Mayor Sherman Saunders. He emphasized the fact that Danville began an economic development strategy a decade ago that incorporates technology as a way to address the future prosperity of the region.

Delegate Danny Marshall, on behalf of the Tobacco Commission, said, "This is the kind of project that the Tobacco Commission seeks. It is providing good, high paying jobs, and it is a business that will benefit the environment for generations to come."

Ms. Carolyn Evans, Chairperson of the Board of the Danville Regional Foundation said, "The Foundation is pleased to be able to participate in making this project a reality. It exemplifies our commitment to bring jobs to the community that provide a living wage for our citizens."

Ecomnets expects to begin operations in its new facility at 1 EcomNets Way, Airside Industrial Park in the latter part of the summer of this year. The company will be hiring the initial staff in the very near future, and an announcement regarding how and where to file applications will be made within the next few weeks.

Working with the Tobacco Commission and the Danville Regional Foundation, the City was able to provide Ecomnets the necessary incentives to make this announcement a reality. The entire southern region of Virginia has been a beneficiary of funds from the Tobacco Commission, and the immediate area of Danville, Pittsylvania County, and Caswell County has had strong support from the Danville Regional Foundation. This project could not have happened without their strong support. The Dan River Region owes both the Commission and the Foundation a resounding vote of thanks according to Joe King, Interim City Manager of Danville. As the project progresses, assistance will be provided by both the Virginia Department of Business Assistance and Danville Community College in training personnel. Economic development is a team effort, and both the City of Danville and EcomNets express their gratitude for all the various entities that have made this announcement possible.

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